

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON
DRIVER EDUCATION



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

October, 2013

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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

P.L.101-2009 (SEA 16-2009) established the Interim Study Committee on Driver Education. The Committee was directed to study the following:

- (1) the administration of driver education by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education;
- (2) standards for an Internet component of driver instruction;
- (3) standards for a classroom component of driver instruction;
- (4) penalties for instructional providers that fail to follow the standards for instruction driving experience;
- (5) statistics for moving violations accrued by individuals less than eighteen (18) years of age who had:
 - (A) taken driver education with a classroom component of driver instruction;
 - (B) taken an Internet component of driver instruction; and
 - (C) no formal driver education;
- (6) the effectiveness of driver education courses on the accident rates of young drivers; and
- (7) the standards and curriculum content for an effective driver education program.

II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY

The Indiana Code codifies driver education training in IC 9-27-6. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has responsibility for issuing driver training school licenses to business enterprises that provide education and training to persons to operate or drive motor vehicles or to prepare an applicant for an examination or validation for a driver's license (IC 9-27-6-3(a)(2)). The BMV also issues driver training school licenses to driver education programs operated under the authority of a school corporation, a nonpublic secondary school that voluntarily becomes state accredited, a nonpublic secondary school recognized under certain state policies, a postsecondary proprietary educational institution, a postsecondary credit bearing proprietary educational institution, a state educational institution, or a nonaccredited nonpublic school (IC 9-27-6-3(a)(2)).

Administrative rules concerning the BMV's regulation of commercial driver training schools, high school driver education programs, and state driver examiners are found at 140 IAC 4-4.

IC 9-24-10-4 sets forth the procedures necessary for the granting of a learner's permit by the BMV. IC 9-24-3 and IC 9-24-11 apply to the issuance of operator's and probationary operator's licenses.

III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met two times during the 2013 interim session, on August 14, 2013, and September 17, 2013, in Room 233 of the Indiana State House, Indianapolis, Indiana.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

On August 14, the Committee heard testimony from: (1) William A. Warner, Oregon Department of Transportation, concerning driver education statutory provisions in Oregon and public safety statistics regarding effects of driver education laws; (2) Sharon Fife, Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education (ANSTSE), who offered the assistance of ANSTSE in amending any standards relating to teen driver education; and (3) Steve Leak, Credentials Program, BMV, regarding BMV's "fast track" to a commercial driver's license based on driving experience gained while in the military service.

On September 17, the Committee heard testimony from: (1) Tom Zachary, Drive Zone, LLC, concerning raising the age at which a child may first get a probationary license if the child has not taken formal driver education classes; and (2) Kyle Meek, Indiana All-Star Driving School, Inc., on requiring in-class training as a mandate for a learner's permit, drive tests allowed to be given by driver education schools, and defensive driving classes.

V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made no findings of fact.

The Committee did not recommend any legislation for introduction in the 2014 legislative session.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

WITNESS LIST

William A. Warner, Oregon Department of Transportation
Sharon Fife, Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education
Steve Leak, Credentials Program, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Tom Zachary, Drive Zone, LLC
Kyle Meek, Indiana All-Star Driving School, Inc.